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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/270,834	03/18/1999	MASAHITO NIIKAWA	032567-007	3006

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EXAMINER

VU, NGOC YEN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

12

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/270,834

Applicant(s)

NIIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Ngoc-Yen T. Vu

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,7,15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 6,8-14 and 17-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see paper No. 11, filed 10/06/2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-25 under 102(e) and 103(a) rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Parulski et al, Yamagami, and Inoue. This Office action is not made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski et al. (US #2001/0019359A1) in view of Yamagami (US #2002/0033888A1).

Regarding claim 1, Parulski teaches a camera system (see Figs. 1A/B), comprising:
a camera (12) for photographing an object and acquiring image data of the object;
a computer (14) connectable to said camera (0025-0026; 0028-0030);
a manipulation member (buttons 26 and LCD 24) provided to said camera;
a camera controller provided to said camera for detecting an operation of said manipulation member and transmitting a signal based on the detected results to said computer (para. 0014, 0021, 0023-0030, 0034-0038).

Claim 1 differs from Parulski in that the claim further requires a controller provided in said computer for controlling a screen of a display functioning together with said computer based on the signal received from said camera. The limitation is well known in the art as shown in Yamagami. In the same field of endeavor, Yamagami teaches a camera system (Fig. 2) comprising a camera (100) and a computer (115) connectable to said camera (see para. 0028-0029). Yamagami also teaches a display (115b) for displaying images captured by the camera, and for displaying attribute information and file names set by an operation section 110 of the camera (Fig. 5, para. 0049). It is inherent that the controller for the display (115b) resides in the computer 115. In light of the teaching in Yamagami, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the camera system taught in Parulski by incorporate the teaching of controlling a screen of a display functioning together with the computer based on the signal received from the camera so as to clearly display names of image files and the corresponding attribute information as the image files received or read by the computer.

Regarding claim 5, the limitations in claim 5 can be found in claim 1.

3. Claims 7, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagami (US #2002/0033888A1) in view of Inoue et al. (US #6,226,449).

Regarding claim 7, Yamagami teaches a camera system (see Figs. 1-2), comprising:
a camera (100) for photographing an object and acquiring image data of the object;
a computer (115) connectable to said camera;

an image display provided to said camera (Official notice is taken that it is well known in the art to provide an image display to an electronic camera for the purpose of previewing images, reproducing and viewing captured image and attribute information associated with each captured image);

a controller provided to said computer for detecting a connection of said camera to said computer (para. 0029) and transmitting display data stored in said computer to said camera based on the detected results (Fig. 5, para. 0031-0037, 0047, 0049, 0064).

Claim 7 differs from Yamagami in that the claim further requires a camera controller provided to said camera for controlling a screen of said image display base on the display data received from said computer. However, it is well known in the art to display attribute data associated with images on an image display provided to an electronic camera as taught in Inoue (see Figs. 7-9). In light of the teaching in Inoue, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the camera system taught in Yamagami by providing a camera controller for controlling a screen of the image display based on the display data received from the computer so as to allow a user to change the attribute data as desired.

Regarding claim 15, the limitations in claim 5 can be found in claim 7.

As to claim 16, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that the monitor (115b) shown in Yamagami have higher resolutions than the liquid crystal display (201) of the electronic camera taught in Inoue. Therefore, the display data displayed on the LCD (201) must have lower resolutions or being thinned out compare to the display data displayed on the monitor (115b).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 20-29 are allowed.
5. Claims 2-4, 6, 8-14 and 17-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc-Yen T. Vu whose telephone number is 703-305-4946. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. – Fri. from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber can be reached on 703-305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NYV
04/19/2004


NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER